

Brown Bittern in the Kimberley, Western Australia.—Condon (*Checklist of the Birds of Australia, 1975*) gives the distribution of the Brown Bittern, *Botaurus poeciloptilus*, as confined to southern Australia. There are no records of this species from the Northern Territory (Storr, *Birds of the Northern Territory, Spec. Publ. West. Aust. Mus., 1977 (7)*), in Queensland it is confined to the wet south-eastern corner (Storr, *List of Queensland Birds, Spec. Publ. West. Aust. Mus., 1973 (5)*), and in southern western Australia it is known from as far north as Moora, though the type locality of the subspecies *westralensis* Mathews was purported to be Shark Bay (Mathews, *Novit. Zool., 1912: 18: 235*). The first specimen (WAM A12495) from the Kimberley Division, Western Australia, was collected by W. H. Butler on October 22, 1971 at Argyle Lagoon, Ord River. It is a female with an unconvoluted oviduct, so may have been a young bird, but the skull is fully pneumatized.

Specimens in the Western Australian Museum indicate that males average larger in wing and bill measurements than females (Table 1). Amadon and Woolfenden (*Am. Mus. Novit., 1952, 1564*) had little material from Western Australia when they concluded that *westralensis* was a synonym of *poeciloptilus*. The mensural data in Table 1 support their conclusion that Western Australian birds are not smaller than those in south-eastern Australia.

TABLE 1.—MEASUREMENTS (mm) OF *BOTAURUS POEILOPTILUS* FROM WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

WAM. Reg.	Sex	Wing	Bill	Tarsus	Locality
A759	♂	347	72	100	—
A10959	♂	338	73	102	North Dandalup
A4978	♂	324	73	102	Muchea
A3677	♂	326	71	92	—
A10036	♂	280	64	84	Herdsmen Lake
A4505	♀	303	62	93	South Belmont
A4494	♀	302	66	91	South Belmont
8450	♀	300	65	102	Pinjarra
A3643	♀	295	63	100	Swanbourne
A12495	♀	306	72	90	Argyle Lagoon

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Two new occurrences of the Mediterranean Snail, *Theba pisana* (Müller), in Western Australia.—Travellers along Eyre Highway from the days before the present sealed road would not readily forget the old roadhouse at Madura, located at the foot of the Hampton Escarpment some 2 km west of the present facility. In the course of a visit to the now abandoned site in October 1976, I found a thriving population of the introduced Mediterranean Snail, *Theba pisana* (Müller) on bushes growing around the ruin and on the side of the escarpment nearby. As usual when gathered in the hand, the animals quickly emerged from the shells and became active. All shells seen were pallid, with the characteristic brown spiral markings either weak or absent.

The native snails *Bothriembryon barretti* Iredale, *Simumelon nullarboricum* (Tate) and *Angasella oligopleura* (Tate) are common here and elsewhere along the Hampton Escarpment. There is as yet no evidence of any displacement of native species by *T. pisana* but the site would repay future checking on this aspect. In fine weather all three native species withdraw into crevices beneath rocks; *B. barretti* and *S. nullarboricum* may also burrow into soil under vegetation. When collected, the native species tend to be much less active than *T. pisana*. Thus aestivation behaviour of the two groups of snails contrasts strongly. Whether the introduced species will be able to survive the droughts that affect the district from time to time remains to be seen.

In September 1976, living specimens of *T. pisana* were found by Mr. T. Hargreaves near his residence in Durlacher Street, Denham, Shark Bay. They are suspected by him to have been brought there on a vehicle